

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing, starting from a vulcanizable elastomer material, a covering that has an appearance substantially free from phenomena of directionality, the process comprising:

feeding an extruder with strips of vulcanizable elastomer material of different colors, subjecting said material to extrusion by causing it to pass through a drawplate provided with openings;

subjecting the material obtained by drawing to shredding so as to obtain, as a result of the shredding, a granular material;

subjecting said granular material to mixing until it is rendered substantially chromatically homogeneous;

feeding said granular material rendered chromatically homogeneous by mixing to a calender, by direct feeding by gravity of the chromatically homogeneous granular material into a gap between rollers of the calender so as to obtain, as a result of calendaring, a strip of vulcanizable elastomer material; and

subjecting said strip of vulcanizable elastomer material to vulcanization.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising subjecting to storage said granular material before or after said mixing.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the drawplate has openings having a crescent-shaped ~~conformation~~ configuration.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of between 1 mm and 5 mm.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of 2.5 mm.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a length in a region of 10-15 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein said crescent-shaped openings are arranged in pairs of openings facing one another ~~with a~~ as an opposed concavity set opposed according to a general configuration (-).

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 7 wherein said pairs of openings are distributed according to a regular array on a development of the drawplate.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising enabling said granular material to reach, before or after said mixing operation, room temperature.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising enabling an at least partial mixing of the colors of said strips of vulcanizable elastomer material fed to the extruder.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the rollers of said calender are kept at a temperature of substantially between 30°C and 40°C.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein a speed of rotation of the rollers of the calender and a rate of feed by gravity of the granular material onto

the rollers are regulated jointly so as to maintain a constant level of granular material waiting to be calendered.

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The process according to claim 1 wherein a degree of chromatic homogeneity of said covering can be increased based on extensiveness of said mixing.

15. (New) The process according to claim 1 wherein said direct feeding by gravity includes direct vertical feeding by gravity of the chromatically homogeneous granular material into the gap between rollers of the calender.

16. (New) The process according to claim 1 wherein said strip that has been subjected to vulcanization is chromatically homogeneous.